Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11738 231123Z

42
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /163 W
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R 230950Z NOV 73
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8790
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSH TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
USUN NEW YORK 529
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11738

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, XD
SUBJ: CHINA AND WEST ASIA

SUMMARY: PEKING CONTINUES TO EXPRESS HEIGHTENED CONCERN
OVER SOVIET INTENTIONS IN WEST ASIA. FOLLOWING UP CHOU
EN-LAI'S RECENT REMARKS TO WESTERN VISITORS ON THE SUBJECT,
NCNA HAS ACCUSED THE SOVIETS OF PLAYING UPON THE BALUCHISTAN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 HONG K 11738 231123Z

AND PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUES IN ORDER TO SECURE A PASSAGE TO THE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

INDIAN OCEAN. END SUMMARY.

1. REFELECTING THE VIEWS PREMIER CHOU HAS BEEN GIVING PRIVATELY, AN NCNA ARTICLE OF NOV 21 CHARGED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ATTEMPTING TO FURTHER ITS PENETRATION IN WEST AND SOUTH ASIA BY EXPLOITING BORDER DISPUTES, NATIONAL DISCORD AND PROBLEMS OF MINORITY NATIONALITIES. IN THE FIRST DIRECT REFERENCE IN PEKING MEDIA TO PAKISTAN'S CURRENT SEPARATIST PROBLEMS, NCNA ACCUSED MOSCOW OF PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "GREAT BALUCHISTAN STATE" AND A "PUSHTUNISTAN STATE" SO AS TO SECURE PASSAGE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN THROUGH AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THE ARTICLE QUOTED PAKISTAN PRESS REPORTS THAT EXPERTS TRAINED IN RUSSIA WERE CONDUCTING GUERRILLA TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAINS OF PAKISTAN'S BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE. AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF MOSCOW'S INTENTIONS, NCNA WITHOUT NOTING THE IRAQI CONNECTION, CITED THE DISCOVERY IN ISLAMABAD LAST FEBRUARY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF SOVIET MADE WEAPONS WHICH HAD BEEN "SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY."

3. THE ARTICLE ALSO MADE A VEILED ALLUSION TO THE SOVIET DESIRE TO OPEN UP THE SUEZ CANAL. IT CHARGED THAT MOSCOW "IS TRYING HARD TO OPEN A SEAWAY THROUGH THE BALCK SEA, THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE RED SEA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC." NCNA NOTED FURTHER THAT MOSCOW HAD ACQUIRED NAVAL FACILITIES FOR SOVIET SHIPS AT TWO MAJOR INDICAN PORTS, AND HAD OBTAINED A "FOOTHOLD" AT CHITTAGONG BY OFFERING ASSISTANCE TO BANG-LADESH IN THE SALVAGING OF SUNKEN WAR VESSELS.

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO CONTAINED SOME OF THE HARSHEST CONDEMNATIONS OF INDIA IN SOME TIME. "MAKING USE OF THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS TOWARD THEIR NEIGHBORS," IT SAID, MOSCOW HAD INFILTRATED ITS INFLUENCE INTO "EVERY SPHERE IN INDIA." NCNA CLAIMED THAT DURING THE INDO-PAK WAR OF 1971, "PROMINENT SOVIET FIGURES HAD DIRECTED THE FIGHTING FROM NEW DELHI. IT QUOTED A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER COMMENT OF THAT YEAR WHICH CHARGED THAT MOSCOW WAS "USING INDIA AS A PAWN."

5. THIS ARTICLE AND CHOU'S PUBLISHED INTERVIEW EARLIER THIS MONTH WITH C.Y. SULZBERGER OPENLY EXPOSE CHINA'S APPREHENSION OVER DEVELOP-
MENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND PUT THE PRC PUBLICLY BEHIND ISLAMABAD IN
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PAGE 03 HONG K 11738 231123Z

REGARD TO THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT. PEKING PROBABLY HOPES THAT EXPOSURE OF THE PROBLEM WILL BE TAKEN AS A WARNING BY THE AFGHAN GOVT. GIVEN BREZHNEV'S IMMINENT ARRIVAL IN NEW DELHI IT MAY ALSO BE INTENDED AS A CAUTION TO INDIA NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THESE ISSUES IF IT HOPES FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH PEKING.
OSBORN

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